

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for logically provisioning resources in a data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a set of resources in a plurality of resources in a provisioning environment within the data processing system, wherein each resource in said set of resources is one of a plurality of different types of resources, wherein said plurality of different types of resources comprises hardware elements and software elements;

selecting a particular instance of a resource in said set of resources of said plurality of resources from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources;

indicating that said selected particular instance is in the process of being reserved, wherein said selected particular instance is unavailable for selection after indicating the particular instance is being reserved; [[and]]

logically provisioning said selected particular instance to fulfill the request by establishing logical relationships between said selected particular instance and other resources;

associating a state variable with the each one of said plurality of resources, wherein the state variable indicates whether the each one of said plurality of resources is available, being reserved, or reserved; and

responsive to logically provisioning said selected particular instance to fulfill the request, indicating whether the each one of said plurality of resources is reserved utilizing said state variable, wherein a reserved resource has an established logical relationship with said provisioning environment.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

identifying other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 , further comprising the steps of:
selecting a particular instance for each of said other ones from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use; and
logically provisioning said selected particular instance for each of said other ones to fulfill a request by establishing logical relationships between each of said other ones.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
said group of unassigned available resources including no preassigned logical associations with any other one of said plurality of resources.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
associating a state variable with each one of said plurality of resources; and
indicating whether the each one of said plurality of resources is available to be selected utilizing said state variable.
- 7.-8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
creating a topology for said provisioning environment, said topology including a layout of said plurality of different types of resources; and
said layout defining relationships among said plurality of different types of resources.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:
utilizing said relationships defined by said layout to identify other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
determining other ones of said plurality of resources that are to be associated with said particular instance.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
determining other ones of said plurality of resources that depend on said particular instance.
13. (Currently amended) A data processing system for logically provisioning resources, comprising:
a CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to receive a request for a set of resources in a plurality of resources in a provisioning environment within the data processing system, wherein each resource in said set of resources is one of a plurality of different types of resources, wherein said plurality of different types of resources comprises hardware elements and software elements;
the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to select a particular instance of said one of said plurality of resources from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources;
a state variable, wherein the state variable indicates that said selected particular instance is in the process of being reserved, wherein said selected particular instance is unavailable for selection after indicating the particular instance is being reserved; [[and]]
the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to logically provision said selected particular instance by adding said selected particular instance to fulfill the request by establishing logical relationships between said selected particular instance and other resources;
the CPU, wherein the CPU associates a state variable with the each one of said plurality of resources, wherein the state variable indicates whether the each one of said plurality of resources is available, being reserved, or reserved; and
the CPU, wherein the CPU, responsive to logically provisioning said selected particular instance to fulfill the request, indicates whether the each one of said plurality of resources is reserved utilizing said state variable, wherein a reserved resource has an established logical relationship with said provisioning environment.

14. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:

the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to identify other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

15. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 14, further comprising:

the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to select a particular instance for each of said other ones from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use; and

the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to logically provision said selected particular instance for each of said other ones to fulfill a request by establishing logical relationships between each of said other ones.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:

said group of unassigned available resources including no preassigned logical associations with any other one of said plurality of resources.

18. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:

a state variable associated with each one of said plurality of resources;

said state variable for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is available to be selected utilizing said state variable.

19.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:
- a topology created for said provisioning environment, said topology including a layout of said plurality of different types of resources; and
 - said layout defining relationships among said plurality of different types of resources.
22. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 21, further comprising:
- said relationships defined by said layout being utilized to identify other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.
23. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 22, further comprising:
- the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to determine other ones of said plurality of resources that are associated with said particular instance.
24. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 22, further comprising:
- the CPU, wherein the CPU executes code to determine other ones of said plurality of resources that depend on said particular instance.
25. (Currently amended) A computer program product, on a recordable type computer readable medium having computer readable instructions, for use in a data processing system for logically provisioning resources, said product comprising:
- instruction means for receiving a request for a set of resources in a plurality of resources in a provisioning environment within the data processing system, wherein each resource in said set of resources is one of a plurality of different types of resources, wherein said plurality of different types of resources comprises hardware elements and software elements;
 - instruction means for selecting a particular instance of said one of said plurality of resources from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources;

instruction means for indicating that said selected particular instance is in the process of being reserved, wherein said selected particular instance is unavailable for selection after indicating the particular instance is being reserved; [[and]]

instruction means for logically provisioning said selected particular instance by adding said selected particular instance to fulfill the request by establishing logical relationships between said selected particular instance and other resources;

instruction means for associating a state variable with the each one of said plurality of resources, wherein the state variable indicates whether the each one of said plurality of resources is available, being reserved, or reserved; and

instruction means for, responsive to logically provisioning said selected particular instance to fulfill the request, indicating whether the each one of said plurality of resources is reserved utilizing said state variable, wherein a reserved resource has an established logical relationship with said provisioning environment.

26. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:

instruction means for identifying other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

27. (Previously Presented) The product according to claim 26, further comprising:

instruction means for selecting a particular instance for each of said other ones from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use; and

instruction means for logically provisioning said selected particular instance for each of said other ones by adding said selected particular instance for each of said other ones to fulfill a request by establishing logical relationships between each of said other ones and said provisioning environment.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:
said group of unassigned available resources including no preassigned logical associations with any other one of said plurality of resources.
30. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:
instruction means for associating a state variable with each one of said plurality of resources;
instruction means for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is available to be selected utilizing said state variable.
- 31.-32. (Canceled)
33. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:
instruction means for creating a topology for said provisioning environment, said topology including a layout of said plurality of different types of resources; and
said layout defining relationships among said plurality of different types of resources.
34. (Original) The product according to claim 33, further comprising:
instruction means for utilizing said relationships defined by said layout to identify other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.
35. (Original) The product according to claim 34, further comprising:
instruction means for determining other ones of said plurality of resources that are associated with said particular instance.
36. (Original) The product according to claim 34, further comprising:
instruction means for determining other ones of said plurality of resources that depend on said particular instance.
37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the request comprises a list of previously reserved resources to be used to satisfy the request.

38. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the request comprises a list of previously reserved resources to be used to satisfy the request.

39. (Previously Presented) The product according to claim 25, wherein the request comprises a list of previously reserved resources to be used to satisfy the request.